

## THE USAGE OF ENGLISH IN CHETAN BHAGAT'S 2 STATES: *THE STORY OF MY MARRIAGE*

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### ABSTRACT

In India, Chetan Bhagat, the 38-year old engineer turned banker turned author, is celebrated by all the readers worldwide not only for his plot but also for the language he employs which is understood by all. His main aim is the readers/audience, mainly the college students can easily buy his books for an enjoyable reading and to relish. He wrote seven books, He has to his credit eight books: *Five Point Someone* (2004), *One Night @ the Call Centre* (2005), *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* (2008), *2 States* (2009), *Revolution 2020* (2011), *What Young India Wants* (2012), *Half Girlfriend* (2015), and *Making India Awesome* (2015). These eight books present the existing scenario of India. Bhagat's usage of English is understandable because he writes the way Indian speaks and writes in English. However, English still is not their native language. With these qualities Chetan Bhagat's novels are omnipresent.

**KEYWORDS:** Language, Literature, Love, Conflict, Corporate World, Inter-State Marriage, Etc

### INTRODUCTION

English as a Second Language (ESL) is a traditional term for the use or study of the English language by the non-narrative speaker in an English speaking environment. That environment may be a country in which English is the mother tongue (e.g. Australia, the U.S etc.) or one in which English has an established role (e.g. India, Nigeria). Indian English literature refers to the body of work by writers in India who write in the English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous languages of India. Its early history began with the works of R.K.Narayan, Mulkraj Anand, and Raja Rao who contributed to Indian fiction in the 1930s.

“Great Literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree, says” Ezra Pound. As per the words of Ezra Pound (American poet and critic), language and literature should be understood by everyone. In India, Chetan Bhagat, the 38- year old engineer turned banker turned author was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1974, is a celebrated writer, columnist, and an influential orator who won fame by writing five famous novels: *Five Point Someone* (2004), *One Night @the Call Center* (2005), *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* (2008), *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* (2009), *Revolution 2020* (2011), *Half-Girlfriend* (2015). *What Young India Wants* (2012) and *Making India Awesome* (2015) are his two non-fictional works.

The younger generation today is in search of the new identity. Very few authors have tried to advertise this emerging cosmopolitan set up and materialism. Chetan Bhagat has always constantly tried to bring out this and helps everyone to understand the crisis with his simple language. Chetan Bhagat has been applauded as one of the chart-topping novelists of the popular literature and a well-known commercial fiction writer who excellently pens down the present world atmosphere exactly as it is prevailing. He is a prolific writer who keeps an eye on each and every aspect of the society and notes down the challenges confronted by the youth today. His writings are full of facts and when he writes readers get attached to it as if it is their own story. He talks up on the tactful issues that concern about the society and the present education system. Chetan Bhagat 's most of the novels accentuate the problems faced by the youth. Each and every novel of Chetan Bhagat has the true picture of India. And this true picture should be understood by everyone. His language is so simple and his thoughts are the couch in such a skillful way that they are understood by everyone instantly. It has been one of the major reasons, why his writings have captured the minds of the younger generations. His popularity also lies in the fact that he always writes in simple English and assures the youth that he understands and stands with them during all the ups and downs to which they are going through.

He studied in well-known Army school in Delhi and he finished his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi in 1995 and MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad in 1997. He worked as a Banker in Hong-Kong. He knows the problems faced by the lower middle-class Indian people and mainly about the youths. For this reason, he uses his language very simple.

His fourth novel *2 States: The Story of My Marriage* was published in 2009. It is based on Bhagat's own life. The story is about the couple, Krish and Ananya who are from two different states of India and face hardships in job, love, marriage, etc. As Chetan Bhagat avers:

Love marriages around the world are simple: Boy loves a girl. Girl loves a boy. They get married. In India, there are a few more steps: Boy loves a girl. Girl loves a boy. Girl's family has to love a boy. Boy's family has to love a girl. Girl's family has to love a boy's family. Boy's family has to love a girl's family. Girl and boy still love each other. They get married. (Blurb)

It is mind-boggling. The larger than life matter is proclaimed in simple English. He depicts the affliction of corporate people. The story is narrated in a first-person point of view in a humorous tone. The characters Krish and Ananya are portrayed to show the lifestyle and environs of IIM. They love each other unmindful of their different communities and are desirous of uniting in marriage. As is in many cinemas, their parents do not agree as the prestige of their family status and their individual ego turns out to be the big obstacles for their union.

There are many inter-caste, inter-religious, inter-community marriages with or without the approval parents are solemnized. In this novel, Krish, a Punjabi from North India, and her beloved Ananya, a South Indian Tamil Brahmin struggle to get united.

The novel is basically written for the Indian audience. The language is typically Indian English with a mix of Indian languages as suited to the respective locale of the novels. We can find Hindi and Tamil languages of India in this novel like Bhaiya (Brother), Abha (father), etc. It gives the Indian flavor and adds taste to it. He also uses the American slang and the words like "dude", "buzz of" etc. This is done to show the change in the vocabulary of English, especially

with the youngsters. As one critic remarks: "Chetan's novel gives you hope especially his language too. He makes the reader feel comfortable with his language."

The critics say that his writings have revealed the sentiments of young generation because whatever he writes about them is true and happening. Apart from this, he has explored himself to be an expert writer who has done experiment with the genre and techniques of novel writings, be it a theme, narrative techniques, plot construction, and language. In all his books Chetan deals with the youth generation.

The present novel *2 States* is one of the best sellers of Chetan Bhagat because:

- It is an alteration of his own life and
- He touches the youth with his simple language.

These two reasons made him as a best seller. It is not suitable for this book alone.

The title itself draws the attention of a reader. The title has correctly chosen that it tells the story in two words and the two characters who are from two different states. And this novel also talks about the cultural diversities i.e., Krish is from Punjab and Ananya is a Madharasi girl. Both these characters depict the two different cultures. We can understand these conflicting situations when Krish stays in Chennai to convince Ananya's parents for his marriage and Ananya in Krish's house for the same reason, to appease his parents for her marriage with Krish.

Chetan Bhagat's novel also contains cinematographic elements. He also talks about the method of learning. Most of them are forced to swallow the subjects to get the good grades. Chetan says that there should be observational teachings and students should learn through 'learning by doing' method. This method can relieve the students from rotting.

To conclude, the novel *2 States* is greatly constructed and the reader will not get confused. It has various themes like love, corporate life, cultures etc. Every place in this novel it has a touch of youth's feeling from lower class to middle class. And from all these, the major thing is, it can be understood by everyone. Thus Chetan's novel stands unique it is because of the language that he uses to pen his novel.

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